

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re Patent Application of:

Kenji NAKASHIMA

Application No.: Group Art Unit: Unassigned

Filed: Examiner: Unassigned

For: METHOD OF AND APPARATUS FOR PROVIDING GROUP PURCHASING SERVICE,  
AND COMPUTER PRODUCT

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure provisions of 37 CFR § 1.56, there is hereby provided certain information which the Examiner may consider material to the examination of the subject U.S. patent application. It is requested that the Examiner make this information of record if it is deemed material to the examination of the subject application.

1. Enclosures accompanying this Information Disclosure Statement are:
  - 1a.  Form PTO-1449.
  - 1b.  Copies of IDS citations.
  - 1c.  An English language copy of search report(s) from a counterpart foreign application or a PCT International Search Report.
  - 1d.  English language translation (complete or relevant portion(s)) attached to each non-English language publication.
  - 1e.  Explanations of Relevancy of References (ATTACHMENT 1(e), hereto) for providing a concise explanation of each non-English publication.
2.  In accordance with 37 CFR § 1.98, a concise explanation of what is presently understood to be the relevance of each non-English language publication is  

(Check appropriate Items 2a, 2b, 2c and/or 2d)

  - 2a.  satisfied because all non-English language publications were cited on the enclosed "English-language version of the search report or action which indicates the degree of relevance found by the foreign office". (See MPEP 609, Minimum Requirements for an Information Disclosure Statement, Part A(3): Concise Explanation of Relevance, pp. 600-100 to 600-101, Rev. 1, Feb. 2000.)
  - 2b.  set forth in the application.

- 2c.  satisfied because an English language translation (complete or relevant portion(s)) is attached to each non-English language publication.
- 2d.  enclosed as Attachment 1(e), hereto.
3. No admission is made that the information cited in this Statement is, or is considered to be, material to patentability nor a representation that a search has been made (other than search report(s) from a counterpart foreign application or a PCT International Search Report, if submitted herewith). 37 CFR §§ 1.97(g) and (h).

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

Dated: Jan 27, 2004  
1201 New York Ave., N.W., Suite 700  
Washington, D.C. 20005  
Telephone: (202) 434-1500  
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501

By: Mark J. Henry  
Mark J. Henry  
Registration No. 36,162

FORM PTO-1449

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

## LIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT

(Use several sheets if necessary)

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.  
1341.1177

APPLICATION NO.

FIRST NAMED INVENTOR

Kenji NAKASHIMA

FILING DATE

GROUP ART UNIT

Unassigned

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	FILING DATE
	AA	5,498,835	3/1996	Ichiki			
	AB						
	AC						
	AD						
	AE						
	AF						

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUB-CLASS	TRANSLATION YES	NO
	AG	2002-133227 A	5/2002	Japan			partial	
	AH	2001-290935 A	10/2001	Japan			partial	
	AI	2002-117311 A	4/2002	Japan			partial	
	AJ	6-12069 A	1/1994	Japan				X
	AK	2002-215998 A	8/2002	Japan			abstr	
	AL							

## OTHER REFERENCES (INCLUDING AUTHOR, TITLE, DATE, PERTINENT PAGES, ETC.)

	AM	
	AN	
	AO	

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

**ATTACHMENT 1(e)**

<b>EXPLANATIONS OF RELEVANCY OF REFERENCES</b>	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	APPLICATION NO.
	1341.1177	
	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	
	Kenji NAKASHIMA	
	FILING DATE	GROUP ART UNIT
		Unassigned

Reference AA is an English language equivalent document of reference AJ.